

MAT

MA'TRICE. *n. f.* [*matrix*, Latin.]

1. The womb; the cavity where the fetus is formed.
If the time required in vivification be of any length, the spirit will exhale before the creature be mature, except it be enclosed in a place where it may have continuance of the heat, and closeness that may keep it from exhaling; and such places are the wombs and *matrices* of the females. *Bacon.*
2. A mould; that which gives form to something inclosed.
Stones that carry a resemblance of cockles, were formed in the cavities of shells; and these shells have served as *matrices* or moulds to them. *Woodward.*

MA'TRICIDE. *n. f.* [*matricidium*, Latin.]

1. Slaughter of a mother.
Nature compensates the death of the father by the *matricide* and murder of the mother. *Brown's Vulg. Errors.*
2. [*Matricida*, Latin; *matricide*, Fr.] A mother killer. *Ainsl.*
To MA'TRICULATE. *v. a.* [from *matricula*: a *matrux*, quod ea velut *matrice* continetur nuntium nomina. *Ainsl.*] To enter or admit to a membership of the universities of England; to enlist; to enter into any society by setting down the name.
He, after some trial of his manners and learning, thought fit to enter himself of that college, and after to matriculate him in the university. *Walton's Life of Sanderson.*

MA'TRICULATE. *n. f.* [from the verb.] A man matriculated.
Suffer me, in the name of the *matriculates* of that famous university, to ask them some plain questions. *Arbutnot.*

MA'TRICULATION. *n. f.* [from *matriculate*.] The act of matriculating.

A scholar absent from the university for five years, is struck out of the *matriculation* book; and, upon his coming de novo to the university, ought to be again matriculated. *Ayliffe.*

MATRIMONIAL. *adj.* [*matrimonial*, Fr. from *matrimonium*, Latin.] Suitable to marriage; pertaining to marriage; conjugal; nuptial; hymeneal.

If he relied upon that title, he could be but a king at curtsy, and have rather a *matrimonial* than a regal power, the right remaining in his queen. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

So spake domestic Adam in his care,
And *matrimonial* love. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. ix.*

Since I am turn'd the husband, you the wife;
The *matrimonial* victory is mine. *Dryden.*

Which, having fairly gain'd, I will resign.

MATRIMONIALY. *adv.* [from *matrimonial*.] According to the manner or laws of marriage.

He is to *matrimonially* wedded unto his church, that he cannot quit the same, even on the score of going unto a religious house. *Ayliffe's Paragon.*

MATRIMONY. *n. f.* [*matrimonium*, Lat.] Marriage; the nuptial state; the contract of man and wife; nuptials.

If any know cause why this couple should not be joined in holy matrimony, they are to declare it. *Common Prayer.*

MAT'RIX. *n. f.* [Lat. *matrice*, Fr.] Womb; a place where any thing is generated or formed.

If they be not lodged in a convenient *matrix*, they are not excited by the efficacy of the fun. *Brown's Vulg. Err.*

MA'TRON. *n. f.* [*matrone*, French; *matrona*, Latin.]

1. An elderly lady.
Come, civil night,
Thou sober-suited *matron*, all in black. *Shakespeare.*

Your wives, your daughters,
Your *matrons* and your maids, could not fill up
The cistern of my lust. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

She was in her early bloom, with a discretion very little inferior to the most experienced *matrons*. *Tatler, N^o. 53.*

2. An old woman.
A *matron* sage
Supports with homely food his drooping age. *Pope's Odyf.*

MA'TRONAL. *adj.* [*matronalis*, Latin.] Suitable to a matron; constituting a matron.

He had heard of the beauty and virtuous behaviour of the queen of Naples, the widow of Ferdinand the younger, being then of *matronal* years of seven and twenty. *Bacon.*

MA'TRONLY. *adj.* *matron* and *like*.] Elderly; ancient.

The *matronly* wife plucked out all the brown hairs, and the younger the white. *L'Estrange's Fables.*

MATROSS. *n. f.*

Matrosses, in the train of artillery, are a sort of soldiers next in degree under the gunners, who assist about the guns in traversing, spunging, firing, and loading them: they carry firelocks, and march along with the store-waggons as a guard, and as assistants, in case a waggon should break. *Bailey.*

MAT'TER. *n. f.* [*matiere*, French; *materia*, Latin.]

1. Body; substance extended.
If then the soul another soul do make,
Because her pow'r is kept within a bound,
She must some former stuff or *matter* take,
But in the soul there is no *matter* found.
It seems probable to me, that God in the beginning formed *matter* in solid, massy, hard, impenetrable, moveable particles, of such sizes and figures, and with such other properties, and in such proportion to space, as most conduced to the end for which he formed them; and that those primitive particles being solids are incomparably harder than any porous bodies compounded of them, even so very hard as never to wear or break in pieces, no ordinary power being able to divide what God himself made one in the first creation. *Newt.*

Some have dimensions of length, breadth, and depth, and have also a power of resistance, or exclude every thing of the same kind from being in the same place: this is the proper character of *matter* or body. *Watts's Logic.*

2. Materials; that of which any thing is composed.
The upper regions of the air perceive the collection of the *matter* of tempels before the air here below. *Bacon.*

3. Subject; thing treated.
The subject or *matter* of laws in general is thus far forth constant, which *matter* is that for the ordering whereof laws were instituted. *Hooker, b. i.*

I have words to speak in thy ear will make thee dumb; yet are they much too light for the *matter*. *Shakespeare's Hamlet.*

Son of God, Saviour of men! Thy name
Shall be the copious *matter* of my song. *Milt. Par. Lost.*

It is *matter* of the greatest astonishment to observe the common boldness of men. *Decay of Piety.*

I shall turn
Full fraught with joyful tidings of these works,
New matter of his praise, and of our songs. *Dryden.*

He grants the deluge to have come so very near the *matter*, that but very few escaped. *Tillotson.*

This is to certain in true philosophy, that it is *matter* of astonishment to me how it came to be doubted. *Cheyne.*

Be thou the copious *matter* of my song. *Phillips.*

4. The whole; the very thing supposed.

5. Affair; business: in a familiar sense.
To help the *matter*, the alchemists call in many vanities out of astrology. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*

Matters succeeded so well with him, that every-body was in admiration to see how mighty rich he was grown. *L'Estr.*

Never was any thing gotten by sensuality and sloth in *matter* of profit or reputation. *L'Estrange's Fables.*

A fawn was reasoning the *matter* with a stag, why he should run away from the dogs. *L'Estrange's Fables.*

Some young female seems to have carried *matters* so far, that she is ripe for asking advice. *Spectator.*

If chance herself should vary,
Observe how *matters* would miscarry. *Prior.*

6. Cause of disturbance.
Where art thou? What's the *matter* with thee? *Shak.*

What's the *matter*, you discontented rogues,
That rubbing the poor itch of your opinion,
Make yourselves scabs. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*

7. Subject of suit or complaint.
Slender, I broke your head; what *matter* have you against me?

—Marry, Sir, I have *matter* in my head against you. *Shak.*

If the craftsmen have a *matter* against any man, the law is open; let them plead one another. *Acts xix. 38.*

In armies, if the *matter* should be tried by duel between two champions, the victory should go on the one side; and yet if tried by the gods, it would go on the other. *Bacon.*

8. Import; consequence; importance; moment.
If I had had time to have made new liveries, I would have bestowed the thousand I borrowed of you; but it is no *matter*, this poor flew doth better. *Shakespeare's Henry IV.*

And please yourselves this day;
No *matter* from what hands you have the play. *Dryden.*

A prophet some, and some a poet cry,
No *matter* which, so neither of them lye,
From steep Othrys' top to Pilus drove
His herd. *Dryden.*

Pleas'd or displeas'd, no *matter* now 'tis past;
The first who dares be angry breaths his last. *Granville.*

9. Thing; object; that which has some particular relation, or is subject to particular consideration.
The king of Armenia had in his company three of the most famous men for *matters* of arms. *Sidney, b. ii.*

Plato reprehended a young man for entering into a dissolute house; the young man said, Why for so small a *matter*?
Plato replied, But custom is no small *matter*. *Bacon.*

Many times the things deduced to judgment may be meum and tuum, when the reason and consequence thereof may trench to point of estate. I call *matter* of estate not only the parts of sovereignty, but whatsoever introduced any great alteration, or dangerous precedent. *Bacon's Essays.*

It is a maxim in state, that all countries of new acquiescence, till they be settled, are rather *matters* of new acquiescence, than of settled. *Bacon's War with Spain.*

10. Question considered.
Upon the whole *matter*, it is absurd to think that conscience can be kept in order without frequent examination. *South.*

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ties, and in such proportion to space, as most conduced to the end for which he formed them; and that those primitive particles being solids are incomparably harder than any porous bodies compounded of them, even so very hard as never to wear or break in pieces, no ordinary power being able to divide what God himself made one in the first creation. *Newt.*

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11. Space or quantity nearly computed.
Away he goes to the market-town, a *matter* of seven miles off, to enquire if any had seen his ass. *L'Estrange.*

I have thoughts to carry a small *matter* in town, to learn somewhat of your lingo. *Congreve's Way of the World.*

12. Purulent running; that which is formed by suppuration.
In an inflamed tubercle in the great angle of the left eye, the *matter* being suppurated I opened it. *Wifeman's Surgery.*

13. Upon the MATTER. A low phrase now out of use, importing, considering the whole; with respect to the main; nearly. In their superiors it quencheth jealousy, and layeth their competitors asleep; so that upon the *matter*, in a great wit deformity is an advantage to rising. *Bacon's Essays.*

Upon the *matter*, in these prayers I do the same thing I did before, save only that what before I spoke without book I now read. *Bishop Sanderfon.*

The elder, having consumed his whole fortune, when forced to leave his title to his younger brother, left upon the *matter* nothing to support it. *Clarendon.*

Waller, with Sir William Balfour, exceeded in horse, but were, upon the *matter*, equal in foot. *Clarendon, b. viii.*

If on one side there are fair proofs, and no pretence of proof on the other, and that the difficulties are most pressing on that side which is destitute of proof, I desire to know, whether this be not upon the *matter* as satisfactory to a wife man as a demonstration. *Tillotson's Sermons.*

To MAT'TER. *v. n.* [from the noun.]

1. To be of importance; to import.
It *matters* not, so they deny it all;
And can but carry the lye constantly. *Benj. Johnson's Catal.*

It *matters* not how they were called, for we know who they are. *Locke.*

If Petrarch's muse did Laura's wit rehearse;
And Covley flatter'd dear Orinda's verse;
She hopes from you—Pox take her hopes and fears,
I plead her sex's claim: what *matters* hers? *Prior.*

2. To generate matter by suppuration.
Deadly wounds inward bleed, each flight fore *mattered*. *Sidney, b. i.*

The herpes beneath *mattered*, and were dried up with common epulotics. *Wifeman's Surgery.*

To MAT'TER. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To regard; not to neglect: as, I *matter* not that calumny.

MAT'TERY. *adj.* [from *matter*.] Purulent; generating matter. The putrid vapours colliquate the phlegmatick humours of the body, which transuding to the lungs, causes their *mat'ery* cough. *Harvey on Consumptions.*

MA'TTOCK. *n. f.* [*matruce*, Saxon.]

1. A kind of toothed instrument to pull up wood.
Give me that *mattock*, and the wrenching iron. *Shakespeare.*

2. A pickaxe.
You must dig with *mattock* and with spade,
And pierce the inmost centre of the earth. *Shakespeare.*

The Turks laboured with *mattocks* and pick-axes to dig up the foundation of the wall. *Kneller's Hist. of the Turks.*

To destroy mountains was more to be expected from earthquakes than corrosive waters, and condemneth the judgment of Xerxes, that wrought through mount Athos with *mattocks*. *Brown's Vulg. Errors, b. vii.*

MAT'TRESS. *n. f.* [*matras*, French; *atras*, Welsh.] A kind of quilt made to lie upon.

Their *matresses* were made of feathers and straw, and sometimes of furs from Gaul. *Arbutnot.*

Nor will the raging fever's fire abate,
With golden canopies and beds of state;
But the poor patient will as soon be found
On the hard *matress*, or the mother ground. *Dryden.*

MAT'URATION. *n. f.* [from *mature*, Latin.]

1. The act of ripening; the state of growing ripe.
One of the causes why grains and fruits are more nourishing than leaves is, the length of time in which they grow to *maturation*. *Bacon's Nat. Hist. N^o. 466.*

There is the *maturation* of fruits, the *maturation* of drinks, and the *maturation* of impostumes; as also other *maturations* of metals. *Bacon's Nat. Hist. N^o. 312.*

We have no heat to spare in Summer; it is very well if it be sufficient for the *maturation* of fruits. *Bentley's Sermon.*

2. [In physiology.] *Maturation*, by some physical writers, is applied to the supuration of excrementitious or extravasated juices into matter, and differs from concoction or digestion, which is the raising to a greater perfection the alimentary and natural juices in their proper canals. *Quincy.*

MAT'URATIVE. *adj.* [from *mature*, Latin.]

1. Ripening; conducive to ripeness.
Between the tropics and the equator their second Summer is hotter, and more *mat'urative* of fruits than the former. *Brown's Vulg. Errors, b. iv.*

2. Conducive to the supuration of a sore.
Butter is *mat'urative*, and is profitably mixed with anodynes and suppuratives. *Wifeman's Surgery.*

MAT'URE. *adj.* [*maturus*, Latin.]

1. Ripe; perfected by time.

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11. Space or quantity nearly computed.
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